

each student individually because she recognized what many even in education circles did not yet grasp—that all students learn at different paces and in different ways.

Just as she thrived in school, Owens did everything to ensure her students did the same, and she was put in charge of a transitional class of elementary school students who, up until that point, had had limited success in school.

Owens made sure that each of her students progressed to grade level and empowered them to understand how they learned.

Word of her tireless dedication to student success and her innovative teaching philosophy spread quickly, and many families moved to Okemos just so their children could be in her class.

By the time she retired from teaching in 2001, she had touched thousands of young lives and helped change the face of education in our community.

Not only did her hiring pave the way for other teachers of color, but by the end of her career, Okemos had its first Black superintendent, and the district was overall a more diverse, inclusive community.

As we mark Black History Month, I salute Carrie Owens, who is Black history in Okemos. This trailblazing teacher has left her mark on the hearts and minds of the entire community, and we are so much better for her service.

May her lessons live on in the students she touched, in all the lives that she changed, and here in the permanent RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

□ 2000

#### TRIBUTE TO EARVIN "MAGIC" JOHNSON

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to one of the greatest basketball players of all time, a man who brought so much magic to the game it quite literally became part of his name. It all began in Michigan's capital city of Lansing, his hometown.

To say that Earvin "Magic" Johnson came from humble roots is an understatement. His mother was a school janitor, and his father worked at General Motors on the assembly line by day and collected garbage in the evenings.

Johnson would often help his father on the garbage route, earning his nickname "Garbage Man" with the neighborhood kids.

All that teasing ended when he hit the basketball court. Johnson started playing as a youngster. By the time he graduated from Lansing Everett High School, where he had led his team to a State championship and was dubbed "Magic," he was already considered the greatest high school basketball player to ever come out of Michigan.

He moved just down the road to East Lansing, attending Michigan State University, where he became a two-time All-American, leading the Spar-

tans to the 1979 National Championship while being voted the Most Outstanding Player of the Year in that year's Final Four.

He was the number one overall selection for the 1979 NBA draft, chosen by the L.A. Lakers, where he would go on to play his entire professional career.

The stats are dazzling. In his 13 seasons with the Lakers, Johnson was a key member of five NBA championships, as well as being a 12-time All-Star, three-time NBA Finals MVP, and three-time league MVP. During his NBA career, Johnson averaged 19.5 points per game, 7.2 rebounds per game, and 11 assists per game.

He was a member of the original NBA Dream Team, winning a Gold Medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Both his Spartan jersey and his Lakers jersey were retired, and Magic Johnson has been inducted into the College Basketball Hall of Fame, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the MSU Athletics Hall of Fame, and the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame.

Johnson stunned the world in 1991 with the announcement that he had tested positive for HIV. It was a seismic moment in our culture, as an athlete of Johnson's stature vowed in public to raise awareness about a virus that was shrouded in stigma.

In the decades since that pivotal moment, his advocacy off the court has been as impressive as his skills on the court, and he has not been limited to that one topic.

He has used his platform to support so many causes, from HIV and AIDS to mental health, COVID vaccines, and the transformational power of wealth-building for Black families.

Johnson has said about his legacy: "Now these kids dream that they can become not only a basketball player or a football player, but they can become a businessman. So that is what is important, that we have power and that we have a seat at the table."

With gratitude for his enduring contributions, I submit to the permanent RECORD of the United States House of Representatives that Earvin "Magic" Johnson not only provided a seat at the table but helped construct it, a table formed in the heart of East Lansing, shaped by a fierce work ethic and raw talent and sprinkled with magic.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. RUTH NICOLE BROWN

Ms. SLOTKIN. Finally, Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to a visionary social justice innovator and academic who is making space for African-American women and girls to celebrate who they are and what they bring to the world, and bringing new and critical opportunities to students at Michigan State University.

Ruth Nicole Brown is the inaugural chairperson of and professor in the Department of African American and African Studies at MSU.

Dr. Brown, an internationally recognized leader in Black girlhood, joined MSU on July 1, 2020, and quickly got to

work creating and advancing the mission of this new degree-granting department at the university. Thanks to her efforts, beginning in the 2022-23 school year, MSU students were, for the first time, able to declare a major in African American and American studies, and many have jumped at the opportunity.

In addition to her academic and administrative accomplishments, Dr. Brown is the founder of Saving Our Lives Hear Our Truths, a creative space that brings young African-American girls together to celebrate Black girlhood.

She also started Black Girl Genius Week, a city and university-wide social media takeover and awareness campaign focusing on rising Black women. She has written several books on the topic and is a highly sought-after speaker.

It is this combination of scholarly work and public engagement that makes Dr. Brown such an innovator. One day she is coediting educational research and anthologies and articles about racial equality and feminism, and the next day she is performing powerful pieces combining music, images, and words.

Dr. Brown is the master of seeing a void and stepping up to fill it.

The performance community she has created responds to a need for spaces where Black girls and women are seen and valued. The department she chairs allows students, for the first time, to center their studies on Black history, including a critical exploration of the role of feminism and gender.

Today, I salute Dr. Brown for the many ways she is changing the game—through art, through music, and through education.

I am so grateful that, along with her many distinguished titles, we are able to call her a Michigan State University Spartan.

May her successes and contributions continue to enrich the MSU community and be acknowledged here, in the permanent record of the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### CELEBRATING TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to celebrate in advance Texas Independence Day on March 2, 1836.

They say everything is better in Texas. Let me just tell you, I am here to confirm that that rumor is true. More correctly, it is no longer a rumor.

We have a saying in Texas, and that goes like this: It ain't bragging if it's facts, and that's the facts about Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be joined by my good Texas friends from both sides of the aisle to celebrate Texas Independence Day.

On March 2, 1836, that was the day the Republic of Texas was born. During the Texas Revolution, a convention of 59 Texans met at Washington-on-the-Brazos and declared our independence of Texas from Mexico. The declaration decried the arbitrary acts of oppression and tyranny from the Mexican Government under the dictator General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

In particular, it noted that the government had "ceased to protect the lives, liberty, and property of the people from whom its legitimate powers are derived."

The Texans signing that declaration sought to protect our rights of free speech, our rights to keep and bear arms—sounds familiar—and our rights of freedom of religion.

I am proud to report these same freedoms still hold true in Texas today.

March 2 is a day that all Texans come together and celebrate the calls of "Come and Take It" and "Remember the Alamo." We remember and honor the pioneering, independent, trail-blazing spirit of the great State of Texas.

Independence has flowed through the veins of Texans ever since. May our thirst for freedom never die, and may we and our offspring always remember that freedom is worth fighting for.

Mr. Speaker, just like those iconic frontier days, we are still at work using what my grandfather—who came over on a boat from Germany, by the way, in 1903—what my grandfather called good old-fashioned Texas horse sense to get the job done. You tell kids that today, "good old-fashioned horse sense," and they look at you funny. They call it common sense. The sad fact of the matter is that common sense isn't very common these days, but in Texas, it is still alive and doing quite well.

Before turning it over to my fellow Texans here tonight, I would like to share two of my favorite quotes from Davy Crockett, who was a Member of Congress from Tennessee. His first quote is: "I must say as to what I have seen of Texas, it is the garden spot of the world, the best land and best prospects for health I ever saw, and I do so believe it is a fortune to any man to come here."

Of course, when Crockett ran for reelection to the U.S. House of Representatives, he got defeated. Then he uttered his second, probably more famous quote. He said to the people who voted him out: Of course, I may not know what you all want to do. I am going to Texas. Y'all can all go to hell.

I am just quoting Davy Crockett, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a Texan and even prouder to represent the great people of Texas here in Washington. As the song says, "God Bless Texas."

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), who is also my good friend.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate my very good friend and fellow Texan, Representative WEBER, for this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most important days in the history of this world, and that is Texas Independence Day. March 2 marks the day that 59 heroic Texians gathered at Washington-on-the-Brazos to ratify the Texas Declaration of Independence.

We know that this freedom didn't come without great bloodshed at sites like Gonzales, the Alamo, Goliad, and San Jacinto. There is a painting of the Alamo right there.

The fortitude of these men and the countless others who gave their lives is why the Lone Star State exists today, 187 years later. As a lifelong student of history and a former member of the Texas Historical Commission, I am incredibly proud to represent the San Jacinto Battleground here in my district, in the 36th District of Texas, where a Texian army, under General Sam Houston, officially secured independence following a defining battle at San Jacinto that lasted a mere 18 minutes amid cries of "Remember the Alamo."

The Republic of Texas reigned as an independent nation for 9 years before being admitted into the United States as the 28th State of the Union. Since its addition, Texas has flourished as one of the most prominent States in the country, emerging as a leader in many vital sectors, including agriculture, space exploration, military readiness, technology, tourism, and much more.

Our State is also home to many of the Nation's top medical centers. I went to school at one, Texas Medical Center.

Texas leads in energy production. In fact, it creates twice as much energy as the next highest State in the Union. In fact, as its own country today, Texas would be among the top 10 largest economies in the entire world.

It is simply remarkable and no wonder why Texans have so much pride. After all, everything in Texas is bigger and better.

We Texans don't like to brag. We just tell the truth; it just sounds like we are bragging.

I believe that those who envisioned what Texas could be so long ago would be absolutely and mightily pleased to see how far we have come.

To all of my fellow Texans, I say happy Independence Day. May God continue to bless our beloved Lone Star State.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is now my distinct honor to have one of

our newest stars from Texas, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, come share with us.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor our heroes of the Texas Revolution.

On February 24, 1836, over 187 years ago, a group of Texans and Tejanos were surrounded by General Santa Anna in a little mission known around the world as the Alamo.

It is my high honor to read Lieutenant Colonel William Travis' stirring words.

"Commandancy of the Alamo Bejar, February 24, 1836. To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World—Fellow Citizens and Compatriots: I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man.

"The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion; otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of liberty, of patriotism, and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to 3,000 or 4,000 in 4 or 5 days.

"If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country.

"Victory or death. William Barret Travis, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant.

"P.S. The Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight, we had not three bushels of corn. We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves. Travis."

We know that the Texans lost this battle, but they did not lose the war. Cries of "Remember the Alamo" swept across the land, and from these ashes arose a nation, a land built on faith, family, and freedom.

□ 2015

I stand here in Congress as a proud Tejana and encourage my fellow Texans to remember the fearless men and women who built this land, our land, known worldwide as Texas.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), another rising star in the Texas delegation.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of the drafters and signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence, Collin McKinney.

I was privileged to serve as the county judge in the County of Collin, in the county seat of McKinney, obviously named for this Texas hero.

Recently, we erected a larger-than-life statue of Collin McKinney in his hometown of Anna, Texas. I rise to recognize this larger-than-life hero in the State of Texas.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize another fellow Texan who has been very instrumental in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, we join Texans back home in a day of celebration for the State of Texas. The State of Texas, as you have heard, began its formation not just at the Alamo but as people came to Texas with the understanding that we wanted the freedom of our own country.

That is when, on February the 24th, the day after the siege of the Alamo began, heroism and opportunity filled the Alamo with ideas not only that they wanted to have their own country, but about a land, a land of people, a land of freedom, and a land that would be full of opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we still stand for in Texas, a State that has distinguished itself not only in honor and in principle but in the opportunity to be a part of the United States of America, one Nation under God, the opportunity to serve in war after war with the United States military, the armed forces of this country. Texas has produced for years, not just heroes like Davy Crockett and Colonel William Barret Travis, but produced in every single war in this country those men and women who would stand for the opportunity to make this country stronger and better.

Tonight, as we begin the celebration of Texas Independence Day, it should be remembered that here in Washington, D.C., this delegation is proud of not only who we are and what we stand for, but we are proud to be the 28th State in the United States of America.

In 1845, we left Texas being a country to join the United States of America. The heroism, the pride of authorship, and the love which we have for the State of Texas we also share for our country, the United States of America.

I thank the gentleman for leading the Texas delegation tonight as we stand on the floor to give thanks.

"Texas, our Texas. All hail the mighty State."

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), a good friend of ours.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I might be an oddity here. Why is a guy from California standing here tonight?

First of all, as a friend to my great Texas colleagues and neighbors, so to speak.

Congratulations to the State of Texas, the people of Texas, on their anniversary, and also all that goes with that independence, that spirit that I admire of the people of Texas and its long, great history.

I think we need a lot more of that across the whole country, because you can always, I think, trust a Texan to stand up for this country.

So as a Californian, we used to have a lot of that same spirit, as pioneers of

the West, going back to the gold rush, and we have, indeed, a lot of great things to point toward in my home State. But we are on harder times, self-inflicted.

I think the spirit of patriotism, of America first that is exhibited by Texans, is indeed one the whole country can use.

It was interesting when we were talking about annexation a little bit earlier here, where Texas might look like it might take over the world sometimes. I wouldn't doubt it; it is possible. But in my home State of California, there is kind of a mass exodus from my State to others, escaping the cost of living, the regulations, some of the other crazy things that are going on in my home State. Indeed, the recipient of a lot of those good folks that are leaving is the State of Texas. So I am not sure if California is trying to annex Texas or if Texas is annexing California a little bit here. But I hope at least it is to the benefit of Texas as we try and sort through our issues and getting back on track, such as growing so much of the Nation's food supply that comes from my State and conserving the water to do so. But I am getting off on a tangent here.

Indeed, there is much to admire. Every chance I get to be in the State, it feels like an extension of home to me. I come from a very rural part of northern California, and we listen to a lot of the same music and eat similar food and farm and ranch maybe in a similar way.

So hats off, literally, to the people of Texas. The only thing I can't get along with, as a 49ers fan, is the Dallas Cowboys. That is about the only thing, but we will leave that aside.

I am indeed glad to stand here with you tonight and wish the best and a happy anniversary of Texas independence.

Please keep leading the way. You are going to lead our Nation through difficult times with your spirit.

God bless Texas.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, a little historic perspective of what Congressman LAMALFA was saying. When you think about how Texas came into the Union, he called it annexation, but the truth of the matter is, Texas came into the Union unlike any other State in the history of the world, really. All the other States were annexed. Texas was a republic, so we came in by treaty. Of course we did. We had to do it our own way.

If you think back to that time, Mr. Speaker, things were happening really fast. After America won its independence in 1781, the battle of Yorktown, some 30 years later, I guess, or 40 years later, Mexico, in 1821, won its independence from Spain. A scant 15 years later, the Texans, as we were called, won our independence from Mexico.

Now, when Congressman LAMALFA was talking about annexation, how annexation was happening fast—of

course, PETE SESSIONS was right. Texas entered the Union as the 28th State on December 29, 1845. I think about that, Mr. Speaker, from time to time.

What was the legislature of Texas thinking back then when we had a chance to annex the rest of the United States? What were they thinking?

But nonetheless, that is what they did.

It is my distinct pleasure now to bring up another rising star in the Texas delegation, NATHANIEL MORAN.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Mr. WEBER, for gathering us all here today in commemoration of one of my favorite holidays, Texas Independence Day. It is a great day to celebrate.

On March 2, 1836, a group of brave Texans adopted the Texas Declaration of Independence to create the Republic of Texas.

This occurred in the midst of one of the greatest sacrificial stands for liberty in American history, the battle of the Alamo, that famously lasted 13 days and cost the lives of all combatants who were inside those walls.

"Remember the Alamo" was the cry that day that went out that inspired our Texans to victory and propelled us to liberty in this great State.

The story of freedom for Texas mirrors the story of freedom for the United States. It was borne out of selfless sacrifice by so many looking for a better life, looking to carve out a better life for their families, a life that they could make with their own hands, with their decisions, with government out of the way.

Freedom will always find a way, and there are always those who will rise to the occasion when the time comes. I am certain of that. We see many of those here today that are rising to the occasion to speak for liberty and to speak for freedom, just as those Texans did a long time ago.

With gratitude to so many from outside Texas who made that dream a reality, especially those who volunteered from Kentucky and from Tennessee, we celebrate the day Texas declared its independence. We share it with those who gratefully gave and graciously gave to Texas during that time. We honor their sacrifices and those of so many more who made it possible in the generations afterward.

Texans are tough-minded, kind-hearted, and hardworking. They have a deep love for our Lord, service to one another, and working to better their community.

These are the values of Texas. They are the values I was raised with and the values I am proud to pass down to my four children.

I am extremely proud to represent the First District of Texas, the only State in the Union to have been its own republic.

So happy Independence Day, Texas, and God bless you in the years to come.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I will say all of our speakers today laid out an exact reason why Texans love freedom and why they are willing to fight for freedom at any cost.

We need to be teaching our children that freedom isn't free. I hope we are. Texans get it. Freedom isn't free.

I want to end by saying: May all the United States join us in reclaiming what the song says so eloquently: "God blessed Texas." I say amen and amen.

Congratulations, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### PRESIDENT BIDEN SHOULD NOT APPOINT JULIE SU

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh has announced his intention to leave the Biden administration, and reports suggest Deputy Secretary Julie Su is the leading candidate to replace him. As chair of the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, I am urging President Biden, in the strongest terms, not to appoint Julie Su to this important cabinet post.

Prior to joining the Biden Labor Department, Su was California's Secretary of Labor under Governor Gavin Newsom. To say she failed the people of California in that role would be an extreme understatement. I was serving in the State assembly during her tenure. I witnessed firsthand failures on a scale that no State in this country has ever experienced.

I have already sent a coalition letter from Members of the California Congressional delegation to President Biden urging him to nominate someone, anyone, other than Su. Today, I will expand on the points we raised in that letter.

The amount of suffering Su's labor department inflicted on my constituents and millions of Californians needs to be understood by the President and by every Senator who would be voting on her nomination.

□ 2030

Specifically, I will be discussing three main failures in her tenure in California, each of which is independently disqualifying.

First, under her supervision, California's unemployment office, known as the EDD, failed to deliver benefits to millions of Californians.

Second, at the same time, thanks to Su's gross negligence, the EDD allowed the largest fraud of taxpayer dollars in history.

Third, Su helped destroy the careers of thousands of California freelancers as an architect of a labor law that effectively bans independent work.

Let's start first by looking at the EDD's staggering failures under Su's

watch to perform its basic function of delivering benefits to the unemployed.

California had the highest or second-highest unemployment rate in the entire country through most of the COVID-19 era. This in itself could be seen as a significant failing of the State's secretary of labor. What was even worse is that those people who lost their paychecks on the government's orders, millions of Californians, had to wait weeks, months, or in some cases indefinitely for the unemployment benefits they were entitled to by law.

Now, in fairness, the COVID shutdown presented unemployment departments with unprecedented demands, and a number of States struggled to keep up. What happened in California under Su's management is simply without comparison.

An estimated 5 million claims were delayed, many for months on end. An estimated 1 million people were wrongfully denied benefits. As a result, many of my constituents were left helpless with no income, no ability to provide for their families. Many became dependent on food banks and had to cut back on basic necessities. They had to dip into their lifesavings or take on debt.

For example, in late April 2020, my office received a call from a woman named Emily, who was inconsolable, saying she was on the brink of giving up hope. She was out of work and her EDD claim had been pending for a month. She had no money, no way to pay her bills or put food on the table. I just can't do this anymore, she said, adding that she couldn't hang on the Governor's promises anymore. We later learned the agency had made a basic processing error, denying her claim and not even telling her.

I could provide hundreds of other stories just like this. At times, during 2020, my office would open dozens of new cases every day from constituents who could not get their benefits. We heard from folks who would call the EDD hundreds of times with no answer, who received notices with someone else's Social Security number, someone else's employer, someone else's earnings, who would wait weeks, months, or forever for their benefits.

The level of service was worse than anything I had ever seen in government, eclipsing the very worst horror stories of bureaucratic ineptitude. By one estimate, only one in a thousand people would reach a live person when they tried to call the EDD.

Sometimes, after finally getting through, the caller would be abruptly hung up on. The callback option routinely failed with people requesting a call back and then not getting one.

Often, no reason was given for benefit denials, and when one was given, it often didn't make sense. One claimant had an electronic application denied as illegible—an electronic application.

San Francisco Assemblyman David Chiu, a Democrat, started a hashtag

featuring the worst of these incidents. He called it #EDDfailoftheday.

Months went by with no progress made. You don't need to take my word for it. In July 2020, 61 of the 80 members of the California Assembly, mostly Democrats, wrote as follows:

"In our fifth month of the pandemic, with so many constituents yet to receive a single unemployment payment, it is clear that EDD is failing California. Millions of our constituents have had no income for months. As Californians wait for answers from EDD, they have depleted their lifesavings, have gone into extreme debt, and are in deep panic as they figure out how to put food on the table and a roof over their heads."

The lawmakers went on to explain how the EDD, time and again, failed to take responsibility and failed to correct its mistakes. They wrote that they had been met with longwinded excuses, fumbling non-answers, or unclear and inconsistent data, along with a "lack of transparency and accountability," even "obfuscation and dishonesty" in their dealings with the agency.

We have exhausted all avenues at our disposal, they said, as the agency had addressed only a few of the many issues we have highlighted for months and was only scratching the surface of the disaster that is the EDD.

Those are the words of the Democrat supermajority in the legislature: the disaster that is the EDD. The legislators lamented "how little has improved at EDD over the course of the pandemic."

Independent reports would soon confirm the extent of the agency's mismanagement and deception. While the EDD had said in July 2020 that its claims backlog would be cleared by September, a report found 1.5 million claims remained unresolved and the backlog was increasing by 10,000 each week.

The independent Legislative Analyst's Office found the EDD mischaracterized the crisis repeatedly to the legislature. For instance, the EDD claimed that 705,000 claims were denied when the real number was 3.4 million.

Under Julie Su, California's unemployment office became the national poster child for government failure. Su failed to prevent avoidable problems, failed to address the crisis as it spiraled out of control, and failed to honestly acknowledge problems after the fact.

Millions of Californians paid the price. It bears emphasizing that these were people who had lost their jobs on the government's orders and had been paying into the very system that was now failing them.

Even allies of the Governor and Secretary Su concluded that she was responsible. Democrat Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, who is chairwoman of the Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee, said that Su has not done a